

Amendments to the Drawings:

Amendments to Figure 2 as shown in:

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The features of Claim 32 have been incorporated into the Independent Claims.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12-30, 33-38 are pending with the entry of this Amendment

New drawings have been submitted as well as amendments to the specification identifying the new drawings. No new matter has been added.

Anticipation

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 12-17 and 23 as being anticipated by Banzi is improper in view of the present amendment.

Independent Claim 1 from which Claims 2-4, 12-17 and 23 depend recites inter alia : “wherein said plurality of grooves are each at irregular angular intervals from each other.”

Banzi does not disclose such a relationship. The Office acknowledges the same, stating “the notches to be distributed...at equally intervals as discloses by the refs,”(page 9). Therefore, Banzi cannot anticipate Claims 1-4, 12-17 and 23 as Banzi does not disclose each and every element.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 12-15, 23-27, 29-31¹ and 33 as being anticipated by Kim is improper in view of the present amendment.

Independent Claims 1, 24, 29 include the features wherein said plurality of grooves (or notches) are each at irregular angular intervals from each other.”

Kim also does not disclose such a relationship and, as noted above, acknowledges that the references Kim and Banzi only disclose equal distribution. Therefore, Kim cannot anticipate Claims 1, 24, and 29 and thus cannot anticipate Claims 2-4, 12-15, 23, 25-27, 30 and 33 which depend therefrom irrespective of any additional patentable features recited therein.

¹ Features incorporated into base claims and cancelled.

The rejection of Claims 6-8, 18-22, 24-28, and 35-38 as being anticipated by Harm is improper in view of the present amendment.

Independent Claims 6, 24 and 35 include the features wherein said plurality of grooves (or notches) are each at irregular angular intervals from each other.”

Harm does not disclose such a relationship (see figures 1, 2A, 2B). Therefore, Harm cannot anticipate Claims 6, 24 and 35 and thus cannot anticipate Claims 7-8, 18-22, 25-29 and 36-38 which depend therefrom irrespective of any additional patentable features recited therein.

Obviousness

The rejection of Claims 16-17, 28, 32² and 34 as being unpatentable over Banzi or Kim as applied to the base claims and in view of Harm is improper.

The Office has failed to present a prima facie case of obviousness. The Office readily admits that there is no teaching in the cited references for random placement of the grooves (or notches), yet somehow finds it obvious since the references don't explicitly teach against it. However, the case law is settled, if there is no teaching for an element, it is not obvious. Furthermore, no motivation was supplied, there is no teaching that randomized placement reduces cogging, only that grooves as presented in the specification which are uniformly spaced reduce cogging.

There is no and can be no obviousness rejection without a proper teaching or motivation.

As the independent claims have been amended to include generally the features of Claim 32, Banzi, Kim and Harm taken alone or in combination cannot render the base claims obvious and thus claims 16-17, 28, and 34.

² Incorporated features into base claims and cancelled.

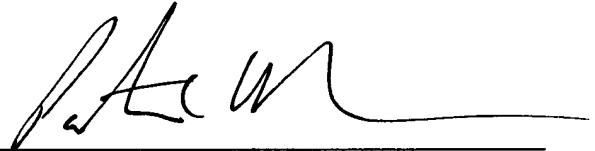
CONCLUSION

Banzi, Kim and Harm do not teach a random or irregular arrangement of grooves or notches and thus whether taken alone or in combination cannot from an anticipation or obviousness rejection of the current claims.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the Application, including Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12-30, 33-38, is earnestly requested.

Although an extension of time is not deemed necessary at this time, the Office is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate extension fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1679, Duane Morris LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



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"ANNOTATED MARKED-UP FIGURE"

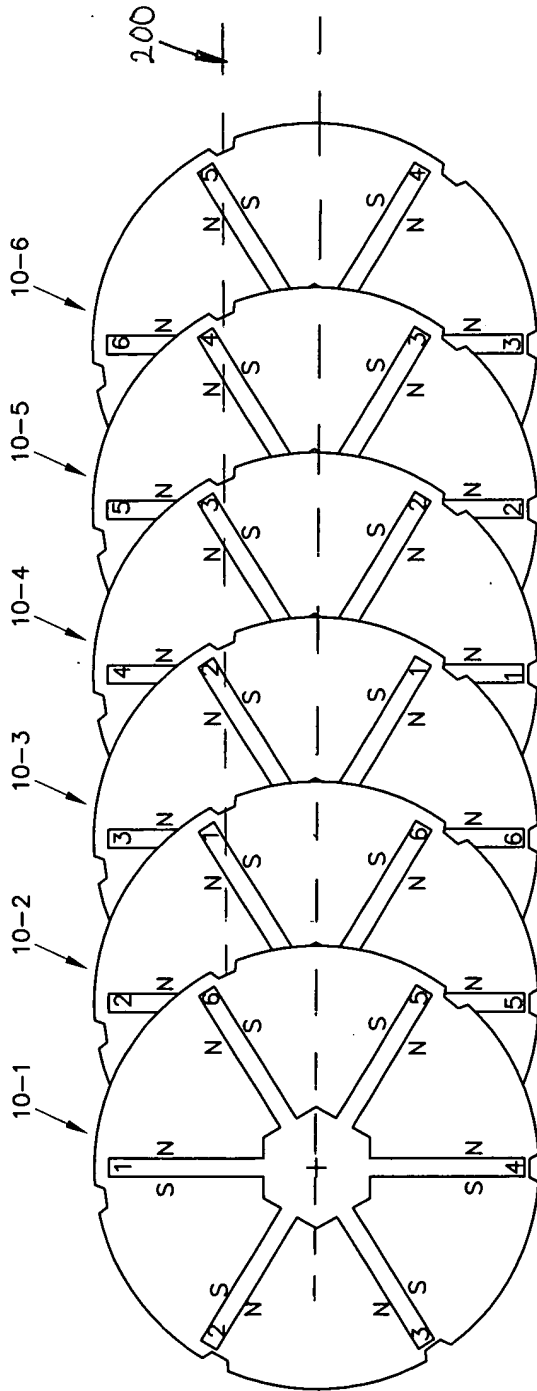


FIG. 2A

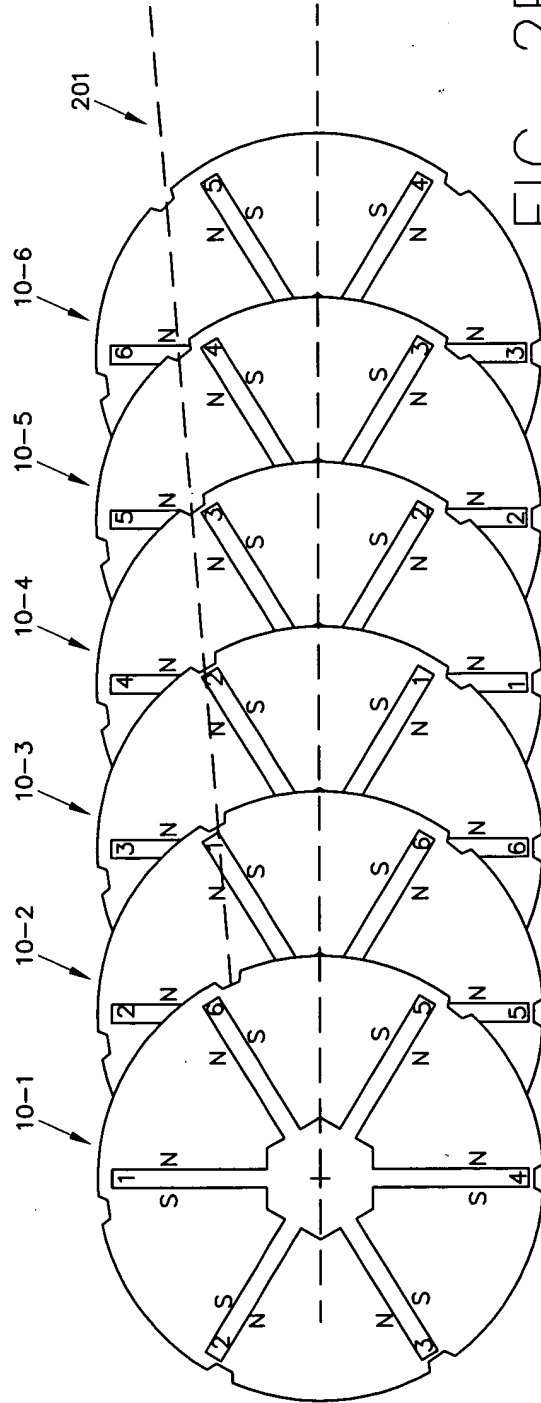


FIG. 2B

NEW FIGURE